

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 524
By Phelan

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach David Russell and the 1995-1996 Bradford High School girls' basketball team on winning the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A state championship.

WHEREAS, a traditional power, the Bradford High School girls' basketball team, with a very stingy man-to-man defense, uncompromising persistence and a "refuse to lose attitude", won the 1995-1996 Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A state championship, their third such championship, having also won the 1982 and 1993 state titles; and

WHEREAS, this was Bradford's tenth appearance in the prestigious State Tournament, having made previous appearances in 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1991, 1993 and 1995. The 1991 and 1995 teams finished as state runners-up; and

WHEREAS, Bradford was the co-champion of the regular season District 14-AA battles, with a fine 9-1 record; and

WHEREAS, this tremendously talented team took the first place trophy home from the District 14-AA tournament, posting impressive triumphs over South Fulton High School 66-27 and Lake County High School 63-48; and

WHEREAS, in tough Region 7-AA Tournament action, they beat McKenzie High School 81-56, Dresden High School 78-19 and Lake County High School 65-42, to win that coveted

title; and

WHEREAS, in the crucial substate match, Bradford defeated Harding Academy by an exciting 62-61 margin; and

WHEREAS, at the TSSAA Class A Tournament, the Red Devils beguiled three good squads, besting the Moore County High School Raiders 82-62 in the first game, defeatiing the University School of Jackson Bruins 51-46 in the semifinals and beating the Waynesboro High School Wildcats 42-37 in the championship game; and

WHEREAS, their exceptional overall record of 30-5 represents an enviable winning percentage of .857; and

WHEREAS, Coach David Russell has done a magnificent job, carefully molding the natural talent of the team into championship caliber, an often difficult task; and

WHEREAS, the team leaders were sensational sophomore center Tonya Tuggles, who averaged 15 points per game and was selected the State Tournament Most Valuable Player, All-Region 7-A Tournament and District 14-A Tournament Most Valuable Player; senior forward Christy Talley, who was chosen All-State Tournament, All-Region 7-A Tournament and All-District 7-A Tournament; freshmen center Tashekia Brown, an All-State Tournament choice; sophomore guard Jody Loynes, who received All-Region 7-A Tournament and All-District 14-A Tournament recognition; and sophomore guard Mindy Sellers, All-District 14-A Tournament; and

WHEREAS, each of the other members of the team, starter senior forward Casey Mitchell, juniors Damaris Foren and Stephanie Guy, sophomores Brittney Campbell, Michelle Manning, and Casey White and freshman Paige Lannom have made important contributions to the squad's success; and

WHEREAS, the enthusiastic cheerleaders, under the expert guidance of sponsors Linda Cates and Dana Ayers, won the State Tournament Sportsmanship Award. They were seniors Shana Wingo and Nichole Reynolds; juniors Shanna McCartney and Andrea Childress and freshmen Jennifer Bolton, Samantha Crocker and Melissa Griffen; and

WHEREAS, the hard-working managers were juniors Sabrina Bradley, Beverly Hall and Shanae Rochelle and sophomores April Branson and Carla Cooper; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize and commemorate this excellent example of our best high school athletes and teams; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach David Russell and the 1995-1996 Bradford High School girls' basketball team on winning the TSSAA Class A state championship and wish them well in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and to each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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